



**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
TOWN OF NEW MARLBOROUGH
OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
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Nathaniel H. Yohalem, Chair
Tara B. White
Michele Shalaby
Board of Selectmen

**Minutes Board of Selectmen's Meeting
Tuesday, January 3, 2017
6:30 p.m.**

Board Members Present: Nathaniel H. Yohalem, Chair
Tara B. White
Michele Shalaby

Others Present: Mari Enoch, Town Administrator
Sharon Fleck, Administrative Secretary
Residents

The meeting of the Board of Selectmen convened at 6:31 p.m. The minutes were read. A motion to approve the minutes of December 12, 2016 was approved. The minutes of December 19, 2016 were held until the next meeting.

Board of Selectmen Chair, Nat Yohalem, offered his congratulations, on behalf of the Board, to Town Clerk, Kathy Chretien, on the birth of her grandson. He also stated how appreciative he and the Town are of the New Marlborough Fire Department in its response to a structure fire on January 1 which destroyed the Lupiani home on Mill River Great Barrington Road.

Broadband

Board of Selectmen Chair, Nat Yohalem, summarized the Town's effort to procure broadband to residents as follows:

- The objective is to bring broadband to the Town as soon as possible and as inexpensively as possible.
- The Town issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) in the Fall of 2016 and received one response from Frontier Communications. The Town is currently negotiating a contract. The deadline for signing the contract is January 14, 2017.
- The original grant allocation from MBI for funding was approximately \$1.7 million for both construction and design. At this point, MBI is only offering the construction grant of \$920,000.

- Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI) rejected Wired West's proposal.
- MBI issued its own RFP response for which are due January 11, 2017.
- The Municipal Lighting Plant of Sandisfield, Monterey and Tolland will issue an RFP on January 6, 2017. This procurement process does not require State legislation to approve a Home Rule Petition. A Home Rule Petition is necessary if an individual town commits a town financially for more than three years. Alice Boyd of Sandisfield will have a paragraph added to the RFP stating that additional towns may be added to their RFP at a later time. Those responses are due mid-February.

A January 20 meeting has been scheduled by the MLP towns with MBI. Frontier Communication is aware of the RFP, but did not release the Town from existing negotiations

Although this synopsis answered many of the resident's questions, additional questions were asked. Nat confirmed that there has not been anything in writing from MBI stating that funding is in jeopardy. Nat further explained that the Town is currently pursuing the three options available to it: (1) negotiate the current proposal with Frontier, (2) wait for proposals from the RFP issued by MBI, (3) keeping the option open of joining the RFP issued by Municipal Lighting Plants of three other towns. MBI must approve any option in order for the Town to receive funding. Any option chosen must also be approved by the Town. Selectman, Michele Shalaby, stated that the Town has had advice from counsel on all three options

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR UPDATES

Town Administrator, Mari Enoch, advised that the Planning Board will apply to Berkshire Regional Planning for a District Local Technical Assistance (DLTA) grant to assist it in developing a by-law for solar photovoltaic installation.

Mari also reported that she and Rhonda LaBombard, Town Administrator in Sheffield, will jointly seek a Community Compact Grant for Shared Services, as the two communities have successfully shared equipment and road material purchases.

The Towns of Sheffield and New Marlborough have scheduled a joint Board of Selectmen meeting for Monday January 23, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. at the Sheffield Town Hall. An additional eight to ten towns have been invited to discuss Shared Services.

SELECTMEN'S UPDATES

There are meetings scheduled for January 4, 2017 with SBRSD's Building, Grounds and Technology and the Finance Sub-committee on January 5, 2017.

Nat Yohalem asked Selectman, Michele Shalaby to set up a meeting on a Tuesday evening regarding emergency services facilities with fire, police and rescue personnel.

Being that there was no further business to be brought before the Board, a motion was made, seconded and so voted by all members to adjourn the meeting at 7:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Fleck
Administrative Secretary

